

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NRO

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MAY 25 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, CIA RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMS
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM D

SUBJECT: OXCART Phase-Out

Scope Cotton Decision 20, which provides guidance for the OXCART phase-out, is attached.

In the event there is an objection to, or desired modification of, any part of this guidance, your recommendations should be expressed immediately.

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ALEXANDER H. FLAX
Director

Attachment

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Scope Cotton Decision No. 20

In view of the decision to return the Oxcart aircraft from Kadena and to place all Oxcart in storage as soon as feasible, the following implementing guidance will apply:

1. The three operational aircraft at Kadena will be returned to the U.S. as soon as logistically feasible. Upon return, they will be placed in storage at Palmdale as soon as Palmdale can accept them.

*negotiating
input dates*

2. One operational aircraft in storage [] the second test aircraft, and the trainer are to move to storage at Palmdale as soon as Palmdale can accept them.

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3. The remaining two operational aircraft [] are to move to storage at Palmdale as soon as Palmdale can accept them.

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4. Storage actions are to be accomplished in the most expeditious and efficient manner possible. In this connection, consideration should be given to landing the three aircraft from Kadena at Palmdale, rather than [] with subsequent move to Palmdale.

5. All Oxcart aircraft currently flying in the U.S. are authorized hours from this date only for purposes incident to readiness for storage and safe ferrying to Palmdale. Hours for proficiency or other training not pertinent to the above purposes are not authorized. With respect to the three aircraft at Kadena, there is currently no planned operational activity; hours are authorized for the purpose of maintaining readiness for return to the U.S.; if there are logical reasons why the aircraft should not be flown directly to Palmdale upon return, these aircraft are authorized flying hours only to maintain readiness for storage and safe ferrying to Palmdale.

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6. All A-12 aircraft will be the responsibility of the [] upon storage and while in storage. This relieves the SR-71 SPO or storage responsibility.

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7. Program Director D, in conjunction with Agency personnel involved, will determine the recommended disposition of tanker aircraft, support aircraft, Air Force personnel, and other regular Air Force assets.

8. Installed and ground equipments (with appropriate spare systems) will be retained to support all A-12 aircraft in storage. Spare parts and other supplies will be retained to support at least a 90 day level for five operational aircraft. (Scope Cotton Decision 5 provides more specifics in this connection.) Residual Oxcart assets at Kadena common to the SR-71 aircraft will be transferred to the SR-71 program. Residual Oxcart peculiar assets at Kadena are to be returned to []

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PAGE 1 OF 2

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9. Assets excess to the preceding paragraph 8 levels will be available for redistribution as first priority to any NRO program, second priority to the SR-71 program, and thirdly to any other user (if security is not a limiting consideration.) However, any non-NRO customer is to be responsible for any costs beyond an "as is" condition (repair, transportation, packing and crating, etc.).

10. In those relatively-few instances where Oxcart peculiar spare parts have been drawn down below the prescribed 90 day level for 5 operational aircraft, procurement of spares to build back to the 90 day level is authorized. Repairs are authorized to meet the serviceable criteria in Cope Cotton Decision 5, except that no engine overhauls are authorized at the Pratt & Whitney facility.

11. Contractors are to be notified immediately that the Oxcart program is being terminated.

12. FY 1968 costs are authorized for preparation for storage and on-storage, and for spare parts procurements and for repairs (as authorized in preceding paragraph 10), within total Oxcart funds presently approved (the requirement for some funding presently-approved will reduce). The Agency's as of 30 June 1968 Status of Funds report will reflect the adjustments involved.

13. For several reasons, guidance can not be furnished at this time with respect to (a) the Tagboard program [redacted] at Beale (b) close-out [redacted] pending specific recommendations from the Agency, and (d) related funding during FY 1969. This guidance will be furnished as soon as practicable.

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PAGE 2 OF 2